

A NEW RECORD OF *THECACERA PENNIGERA* (MONTAGU, 1815)  
(OPISTHOBRANCHIA:POLYCERIDAE) FROM NEW SOUTH WALES

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Joyce Allan (1957:4) reported some details of specimens of the then western European species *Thecacera pennigera* (Montagu, 1815) found in July 1951 during sea-water conduit inspections at White Bay Power Station in the upper reaches of Sydney Harbour, New South Wales. The species has not been reported again from Australia, but has been described from Brazil (Marcus, 1957), Japan (Baba, 1960), and New Zealand (Willan, 1976). In an excellent paper, Willan (1976) reviewed what is known of *T. pennigera*, and synonymized with it *T. maculata* Eliot from Pakistan and *T. lamellata* Barnard from South Africa. The species thus has a circumglobal distribution, except that it is not reported from the Pacific coast of North and South America or the Atlantic coast of North America.

In July 1970, another specimen of *T. pennigera* was collected and photographed in Port Hacking, south of Sydney Harbour, indicating the continued presence of the species in eastern Australian waters. Data for this specimen is:

Ship Rock, Port Hacking, New South Wales, 5 m among sponges, ascidians, etc, July 1970, coll. Neville Coleman, 1 specimen live length 15 mm (F30107). Alive, the specimen matched precisely the description and figures of New Zealand specimens (Willan, 1976), even to the details of postbranchial processes with white shining granules at the tip, below which a golden zone and then the translucent base. In the preserved specimen, a deep pit is present on each side of the head below the base of each rhinophoral sheath.

The deep pit on each side of the head in *T. pennigera*, and also in *T. picta* Baba (1972), has been commented upon by Willan (1976). In the large southern Australian polycerid *Tambja verconis* (Basedow & Hedley), similar deep pits are present dorsally to the oral tentacles, and have a sensory purpose in short distance location of live *Bugula* and orientation of the head and mouth prior to feeding.

It is of interest to note that the Australian distribution of *T. pennigera*, Sydney Harbour to Port Hacking, falls within that of another apparent introduction *Polycera capensis* (Quoy & Gaimard), originally from South Africa. First noted in Sydney Harbour in 1927 (Allan, 1931), *P. capensis* ranges from Broken Bay (28 km N.) to Kiama (100 km S.), all collections other than those from Sydney Harbour post-dating 1947.

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